

**REMARKS**

New claim 27 emphasizes, as depicted in Fig. 4, that a magnetic stripe card 40 is slid lengthwise of slot 62 through both open ends of the slot 62 during reading the encoded data on a stripe 36 of the card. Claim 27 also recites that the length of the card 40 is greater than the length dimension (e.g., 1-1/2 inches; page 2, line 3 of the Specification) of the parallelepiped-shaped support.

By contrast, Fig. 15 of U.S. Patent No. 5,640,002 to Ruppert depicts a supermarket cart-mounted housing 255 having a credit card slot which has only one open end. The housing is much larger than the credit card. Also, Fig. 16 of Ruppert discloses a slot 300 inside of which a magnetic stripe card reading head is contained (col. 17, lines 12-15). Slot 300 does not have two opposite open ends through which the card is slid.

In addition, applicant reiterates that the RF reader 314 and the stripe reader 512 of Ruppert do not share the same digitizer. They do share the same microcomputer 320 as depicted in Fig. 19 of Ruppert. However, as previously argued, the RF reader 314 and the stripe reader 512 of Ruppert are separate, self-contained peripherals which do not share the same digitizer. They, as well as the other peripherals depicted in Fig. 19, are only interconnected by the microcomputer. Ruppert does not teach or suggest that the analog signals generated by each peripheral can be digitized by a shared digitizer.

Allowance of claim 27 is respectfully requested.

Wherefore, a favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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